

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1, 5-8, 16, 17, 20, and 22 are pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 1, 16, 17, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,776,090 ("Grassi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a "a post having a first end coupled to the top surface of the bottom elongated member adjacent the proximal end thereof and a second end located at a point above the top surface of the top elongated member, the post being located adjacent to and outwardly of a side surface of the top elongated member" and "a lever having a bottom surface coupled to the second end of the post at the point above the top surface of the top elongated member." Grassi does not disclose these features. To the contrary, Grassi discloses a band 26, characterized as a "post" by the Office Action, that is coupled to a lever 32 above a top surface of the lever 32. (FIG. 2; column 2, lines 51-53). As stated by the Examiner in the Interview Summary dated February 20, 2008, "Grassi's post comprises a band wrapping around the top elongated member, the bottom elongated member and the lever."

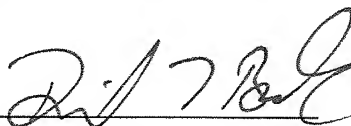
Since Grassi does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by Grassi. Claim 22 contains limitations similar to those of claim 1 and is allowable at least for reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 1 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1, 5-8, 16, 17, 20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grassi in view of U.S. Design Patent No. D392,419 ("Litton"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 5-8, 16 and 17 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Grassi for at least the reasons mentioned above. Claim 20 depends from claim 22 and is patentable over Grassi for at least the reasons mentioned above. Litton, which has been cited as teaching a bumper, does not cure the deficiencies of Grassi discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition to be allowed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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